

Supporting Our People and Our Communities

Government is working with communities so that Nova Scotians feel safe and connected to the people, places, and opportunities around them. Addressing poverty is a key focus area.

Budget 2019–20 includes

Accessibility and Community Supports

- \$14.2 million increase for programs that support adults and children with disabilities
 - \$6.6 million increase to the Disability Support Program, including specialized services for clients with complex needs to support their quality of life
 - \$5.1 million increase to the Disability Support Program for new residential placements for children and youth with disabilities and complex needs requiring community-based care
 - \$2.5 million increase to the Flex In-Home Support Program to support more people with disabilities who live at home with their families
- \$1 million to continue to offer ACCESS-Ability grants for businesses to make accessibility-related improvements and work toward a barrier-free province
- \$1 million to continue to offer Community ACCESS-Ability grants to make accessibility-related improvements and work toward a barrier-free province
- \$175,000 increase to improve accessibility at the Nova Scotia Legislature through closed captioning for Legislative Television and new equipment
- \$125,000 increase to fully implement the respite co-ordination program
- \$5.6 million increase this year to introduce the Standard Household Rate so that people receiving income assistance will get the maximum amount they are eligible for and a rate increase
- \$5 million for year three of the Poverty Reduction Blueprint to invest in projects as part of a multi-year investment of \$20 million
- \$3 million for year two of a \$9-million multi-year commitment called Standing Together to help prevent domestic violence
- \$1.7 million to fully implement the exemption of child maintenance payments from income assistance calculations so parents have more money to take care of their children's needs
- \$700,000 increase to extend the child maintenance exemption to people receiving supports through Housing Nova Scotia and the Disability Support Program
- \$7.2 million to continue community transportation projects
- \$470,000 for the Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee to work with universities and NSCC to continue implementing recommendations from its 2017 report
- \$1.5 million in the Culture Innovation Fund to support projects that improve social well-being through art, culture, heritage, and sport

- \$3.5 million in cost-shared funding with the federal government to continue policy development and public awareness for legal cannabis and preparation for the legalization of edibles and concentrates in October 2019
- \$378,000 increase in provincial support for First Nations Policing, an agreement with the RCMP and seven First Nation communities to support law enforcement in indigenous communities

Affordable Housing

- \$7.2 million more to make improvements to public housing units
- \$3 million increase as part of a three-year plan to create 1,500 new rent supplements and reduce the public housing waitlist by 30 per cent
- \$465,000 to support the Cape Breton Community Housing Association manage a new emergency homeless shelter for men and women in Sydney